

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 02908 281453Z
ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: EXPRESSEN BREAKS STORY OF VANCE-LINDER MEETING

REF: STOCKHOLM 2902

EXPRESSEN STORY OF JULY 28 BY ERIK SJOQUIST
HAS INDEED BROKEN NEWS OF SECRETARY'S SCHEDULED
MEETING WITH TRADE MINISTER BURENSTAM LINDER.
SJOQUIST WAS AUTHOR OF ORIGINAL STORY ON US
BLOCKING OF VIGGEN SALE. TEXT FOLLOWS:

QTE MINISTER OF TRADE STAFFAN BURENSTAM-LINDER
WILL SOON TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS DIRECTLY
WITH SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE THE AMERICAN
OBSTACLE TO SAAB'S SALE OF VIGGEN TO INDIA.

QTE THEREBY THE CASE WITH THE STOPPED VIGGEN
DEAL TAKES A NEW TURN. THAT MEANS, AMONG OTHER
THINGS, THAT THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ACCEPT
THE POLITICAL ROLE THAT THE US PLAYS IN THE VIGGEN
CASE.

QTE VIGGEN WILL NOW, WITH A SWEDISH MINISTER'S
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PRESENTATION TO THE US SECRETARY OF STATE BECOME
A TEST CASE, NOT ONLY FOR SWEDEN BUT FOR SEVERAL
COUNTRIES, AS CONCERNS THE ROLE PLAYED BY AMERICAN
INTERESTS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

QTE SAAB'S WELL-KNOWN MILITARY AIRPLANE HAS
AN AMERICAN ENGINE WHICH IS MANUFACTURED UNDER

LICENSE IN TROLLHATTAN. THIS GIVES PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER THE RIGHT TO PREVENT THE SALE OF VIGGEN TO OTHER COUNTRIES, WHERE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THERE MAY BE RISKS FOR CONFLICTS (LIKE BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN).

QTE BUT EXPERTS IN TRADE LAW THINK THAT THAT POSITION IN THE VIGGEN CASE DOES NOT AGREE VERY WELL WITH THE US DECISION TO, AMONG OTHER THINGS, SELL ARMS TO TURKEY.

QTE TURKEY IS A NATO MEMBER, BUT HAS VERY FRAGILE POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH GREECE (ALSO A NATO NATION) AND IS ALSO ONE OF THE PARTIES IN THE STILL UNSOLVED CYPRUS QUESTION.

QTE THE RECENT AMERICAN ESCALATION AS CONCERNS WANTING TO "STEER" THE FOREIGN TRADE OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES - PRIMARILY EUROPEAN - HAS WORRIED THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT.

QTE IT IS SAID THAT THIS WHOLE ASPECT WILL BE ANALYZED BY THE SWEDISH MINISTER OF TRADE AT HIS MEETING WITH CYRUS VANCE.

QTE BUT WHILE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION GENERALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE GONE ONE STEP TOO FAR IN THE VIGGEN CASE, THERE IS, AMONG SWEDISH POLITICANS, A CERTAIN UNEASE BEFORE THE FACT THAT INDIA, WHICH IS A COUNTRY RECEIVING SWEDISH DEVELOPMENT AID, IS GOING TO BUY SUCH AN EXPENSIVE AND ADVANCED AIRPLANE TYPE AS THE SAAB PLANE.

QTE IT IS ALSO KNOWN THAT THAT VIEW IS SHARED BY MEMBERS ALSO WITHIN THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT, WHOSE ARMS BUYERS RIGHT NOW HAVE ONE FRENCH AND ONE BRITISH-FRENCH PLANE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN. UNQTE KENNEDY-MINOTT

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